UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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S/1998/554
22 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 19 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 9 June 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union on Kosovo.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) John WESTON
Permanent Representative of the
United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 9 June 1998 by the Presidency of the European Union on Kosovo

We are deeply concerned at the intense fighting in Kosovo. The reports of widespread house-burning and indiscriminate artillery attacks on whole villages indicate a new level of aggression on the part of the Serb security forces. We are disturbed by reports that these attacks are beginning to constitute a new wave of ethnic cleansing. We strongly condemn this action, which, together with the systematic exclusion of international observers from affected areas, demonstrates that Belgrade is engaged in a campaign of violence going far beyond what could legitimately be described as a targeted anti-terrorist operation. We insist on an immediate stop to all violent action and call for the withdrawal of special police and army units.

We are particularly concerned by the growing stream of refugees into northern Albania caused by the continuing conflict. This illustrates the threat posed to regional security and stability by the deteriorating situation in Kosovo. We are strongly interested in the return of refugees to their homes in Kosovo, preferably with monitoring by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The European Union will play its part in addressing the refugee problem in a comprehensive way within the region itself.

The Council of the European Union is equally concerned by the growing human cost of the violence. It is in close touch with the relevant humanitarian agencies and stands ready to offer its assistance. Full access of humanitarian organizations, in particular the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to the areas of conflict is indispensable. Furthermore, international forensic experts should have the opportunity to carry out the necessary investigation in order to clarify the circumstances in which civilians have died. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia authorities have an obligation to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991.

We further believe that it is time to strengthen the international monitoring capacity in Kosovo, in order to provide a more accurate picture of developments and to encourage a political solution. The European Union will consider a contribution to this through the European Community Monitoring Mission.

We continue to condemn any use of violence for political ends on either side. The European Union is determined to play its part in stopping the flow of money and weapons to the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). Neighbouring States have a particular responsibility to ensure that their territory is not used in support of KLA activity. We will continue to work with them to ensure that their security is not jeopardized by the continuing violence in Kosovo.

The priorities in Kosovo are to end violence and to establish a genuine political process, which is the only viable alternative to continuing conflict. We are disappointed by the very limited progress made so far in the talks between Belgrade and Pristina. We call upon Belgrade to take urgent steps to reduce the tension in the province so as to create the stable environment necessary for political progress. We reaffirm our support for Ibrahim Rugova's resolve to seek a political solution through dialogue. The European Union supports the granting of special status, including a large degree of autonomy for Kosovo, within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

President Milosevic bears a special responsibility as head of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for promoting a peaceful settlement to the problems of Kosovo. He should not believe that the international community will be taken in by talk of peace when the reality on the ground is ever greater repression. In the light of the grave deterioration of the situation on the ground, involving the excessive use of force by the Serb security forces, the Council has today adopted a common position for a ban on new investments in Serbia. The European Commission will act rapidly to make the necessary proposal for implementation of the ban on new investments in Serbia. The Council will adopt the regulation on the freeze of funds of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Serbian Governments as soon as possible. The European Union remains ready to press ahead with other measures against Belgrade if the authorities there fail to halt their excessive use of force and to take the steps needed for genuine political progress. Furthermore, the European Union encourages international security organizations to pursue their efforts in this respect and to consider all options, including those that would require authorization by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Council regretted and condemned President Milosevic's refusal to permit the Gonzalez mission to commence work on the basis of the Council's discussions and conclusions, expressed its continuing support for Felipe Gonzalez as its Special Representative and approved the joint action to give practical effect to this support.

The associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and Cyprus, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area have aligned themselves with the present statement.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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22 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 JUNE 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF BURKINA FASO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as the representative of the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, I have the honour to transmit herewith a press release on the mission undertaken by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) delegation of Heads of State mandated by the thirty-fourth summit meeting of OAU, in Ouagadougou, to visit Ethiopia and Eritrea to assist in bringing about a peaceful resolution to the conflict between the two countries.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul Robert TIENDRÉBÉOGO
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of Burkina Faso
Representative of the current Chairman
of OAU

98-17665 (E) 220698

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Annex

Press release on the visit of the Organization of African Unity delegation of Heads of State to Ethiopia and Eritrea, issued by the Information Division of the Organization of African Unity on 19 June 1998

The following press statement was read out to the media by the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) following the visit of the OAU delegation of Heads of State to Ethiopia and Eritrea:

There is no need to recall the circumstances which prompted the OAU summit meeting in Ouagadougou to send a high-level delegation of Heads of State to Ethiopia and Eritrea.

It may be useful however to recall the decision of the summit meeting on this grave issue:

(a) The summit expressed its deep concern over the escalation of the conflict;

(b) The summit urgently appealed to the two parties to simultaneously put an end to all hostilities and accept and implement the recommendations of the facilitators;

(c) The summit decided to send to both countries a delegation of Heads of State and Government.

The OAU high-level delegation was led by President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, the current Chairman of OAU. It included President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, President Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Djibouti, representing President Hassan Gouled Aptidon, current Chairman of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Secretary-General of OAU.

Yesterday morning the delegation held a meeting with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia. It then proceeded to Asmara, where it met with President Issaias Afeworki of Eritrea. The delegation had another meeting this morning with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

The delegation listened carefully to both parties, which articulated their respective positions. It welcomed the disposition reiterated by both parties to seek a peaceful solution to the dispute and avoid further escalation of the conflict. It also welcomed the current climate of restraint and cessation of hostilities observed by both parties.

It will be recalled that the facilitators have put forward some proposals to both parties as a way of bridging the gap between them. These proposals were supported by the OAU summit meeting in Ouagadougou.

In the course of its discussions with both parties, the Ethiopian side reiterated its acceptance of the proposals of the facilitators. The Eritrean side stated clearly that the facilitation was over.

From this point of view, therefore, the delegation was not able at this juncture, to make headway with respect to the facilitators' recommendations.

OAU will nonetheless continue with its efforts. The issue is too serious and grave, and it deserves the continued attention of the Organization.

The OAU delegation continues therefore to be seized with the matter. It will continue with its efforts at the level of Ambassadors of the members of the delegation, Ministers and Heads of State. It will seek the cooperation of both parties to help them reach a peaceful solution. In this endeavour, the OAU delegation will build on the areas where there is convergence of approach and views between the two parties.

In the meantime, the OAU delegation urged both parties to continue to exercise maximum restraint and avoid taking any action that could escalate the tension and further harm the future relations between the two countries.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

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22 June 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 JUNE 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you, and through you the other members of the Security Council, of Ethiopia's intention to invade my country, the State of Eritrea.

While addressing a meeting of Ethiopians residing in and around Washington on Sunday, 14 June 1998, Ethiopia's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Tekeda Alemu, revealed that his Government's intentions included the invasion of the Eritrean Port of Assab. He stated the following:

> "The conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea will be raised at the Security Council on the basis of the four-point recommendations [the United States of America-Rwanda proposal] of the facilitators. The Government of the United States and the international community are on our side, and we are certain that the Security Council resolution will be supportive of Ethiopia. This will allow us to take any action we want on the Eritrean leader, as he will have been portrayed as Saddam Hussein, and on Eritrea. The Port of Assab will fall into our hands in the next few days."

These comments from a senior Ethiopian official demonstrate the sinister designs of the Government of Ethiopia to secure United Nations legitimacy for invading a sovereign State.

I have also the honour to transmit a statement issued today, 22 June, by the Ministry of Information and Culture of the State of Eritrea in Asmara concerning the continuing ordeal of Eritrean nationals being expelled from Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would kindly circulate this letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Haile MENKERIOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement issued on 22 June 1998 by the Ministry of Information and Culture of Eritrea

Ethiopia continues its inhumane expulsion of Eritrean nationals

Another 111 Eritreans expelled from Ethiopia arrived in the border town of Om-Hager yesterday evening, Sunday, 21 June 1998. Initial reports indicate that about 50 of them had been detained for weeks in small dungeons and airtight containers, causing them serious physical harm. Two hundred and fifty others are on their way and will be arriving in Asmara this evening. This puts the total number of arrivals to date at 1,081. Meanwhile, the 720 Eritreans who were summarily expelled from Addis Ababa and other towns in Ethiopia early last week arrived in Asmara on Saturday, 20 June, amid a tumultuous welcome from the residents. All have harrowing stories to tell, most having been rounded up, either at their places of work or from their homes in the morning hours. Many were not allowed to say goodbye to their loved ones left behind. A mother of three small children who had left her young children in her locked home, was arrested in downtown Addis Ababa. She was distraught for the entire journey, which took three days. Many of these people are ordinary businessmen, more than 60 years of age, who have lived in Ethiopia for most of their lives.

UNITED
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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-second session
Agenda items 36, 37 and 87
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER
ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 22 June 1998 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In follow up to my letter of 18 June 1998 (A/52/958-S/1998/535), I would like to inform you that yesterday, 21 June 1998, the Israeli Government approved the programme announced by the Prime Minister, which aims at strengthening Israel's illegal hold on Jerusalem. As we indicated in our prior letter, the plan would expand the border of Jerusalem and would extend the municipal authority over some Jewish settlements in the West Bank, establishing a so-called 'umbrella authority'. This is a concrete step towards the illegal annexation of more occupied Palestinian land to the already illegally expanded Jerusalem municipality. It also aims at maintaining or creating a specific demographic composition.

The Israeli plan is not only a provocation for the Palestinian people, it is a gross violation of international law and it is definitely detrimental to the current peace process. The demagogic and outrageous statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister in this regard only underline this fact.

The Security Council has adopted 16 resolutions regarding the city of Jerusalem, and has repeatedly declared that all measures and arrangements taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including the legislative and administrative ones, which aim at changing the legal status, demographic composition and character of the city are null and void without any legal validity whatsoever. Further, the Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the applicability of the

Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to all the territories occupied by Israel in 1967, including Jerusalem.

We reiterate our belief that the Security Council, as the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, is under obligation to take specific concrete measures to prevent the above-mentioned plan and any other Israeli violations of international law and the Council's own resolutions. We specifically request that the Council consider the situation in a formal meeting and take the necessary measures in this regard.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the fifty-second session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 37 and 87, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dr. Nasser AL-KIDWA
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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23 June 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 23 JUNE 1998 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should like to refer to the letter dated 22 June 1998 from the Permanent Observer for Palestine to the United Nations (A/52/963-S/1998/557) relating to the decision of the Government of Israel, the occupying Power, to expand the boundaries of the municipality of Jerusalem and create "a municipal umbrella" that would include a number of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. This is in the context of annexing more occupied Palestinian territory and ensuring a greater Jewish majority in the demographic composition of occupied Jerusalem.

I should also like to convey to you the support of the States members of the League of Arab States for the above-mentioned letter from the Permanent Observer for Palestine.

In my capacity as Chairman of the Arab Group for the month of June 1998 and on behalf of the States members of the League of Arab States, I request the convening of an urgent formal meeting of the Security Council to consider this matter and take the necessary concrete measures to oblige Israel to rescind the above-mentioned decision, and to prevent it from continuing its repeated violations of Security Council resolutions and international law. I call upon the Security Council, as the body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, to assume its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mubarak Hussein RAHMTALLA
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the
Republic of the Sudan to the United Nations
Chairman of the Arab Group

98-17817 (E) 230698 230698